

Community Newsletter

February 2022 Edition



Note from Mayor Meghan F. George



After a relatively mild December, winter is in full force and snow is top of mind for all of us. I often get questions from residents about street plowing, sidewalk clearance, and snow removal, so I'm dedicating this month's note to sharing some facts about how Lakewood handles snowstorms.

The Department of Public Works is charged with preparing for and responding to winter storms, and meets in advance of any predicted heavy snow to review staffing and equipment then plan accordingly based on capacity and forecasts. While storms can be unpredictable, we do our best to be prepared. The Streets and Forestry Division is responsible for plowing and salting of roads, with other divisions – including parks, refuse, and water – also having roles in clearing city-owned lots, sidewalks, and properties.

Although Lakewood is less than seven square miles in area, our compact nature, high number of streets and reliance on street parking present significant work and many challenges for snow removal. There are over 200 miles of street lanes to clear in our city. Our plowing plan focuses on safety, beginning by clearing main streets, hills, and bridges – the top areas where accidents occur and the most traffic – then moves on to residential side streets once those priorities have been addressed.

City ordinances mandate that if four inches of snowfall in a 24-hour period, an emergency snow parking ban automatically takes effect on "snow streets" – no announcement is required, but the City routinely sends reminders of the ban through local news outlets and social media. "Emergency Snow Street" signs are posted, and you can also find a complete list on our website's [snow information page](#). Anyone without off-street parking may park in [city-owned lots](#) at no charge during a major snow event.

One related topic I want to highlight is sidewalk clearance. Lakewood is a community that values walkability, where many residents do not drive, and we are also one of a handful in the state where children walk to school (rather than take a bus). This makes keeping sidewalks shoveled especially important. Our city code (Section 521.06) reflects this by mandating that owners must clear snow from sidewalks that abut their property, and our building department sends out notices when walks are not shoveled. Multiple public works divisions will assist with both bus stop clearing and sidewalks, namely around schools, whenever possible.

We understand that disabled or elderly residents may be unable to shovel themselves or cannot pay for snow clearance. We are fortunate to have dozens of selfless volunteers that pitch in to shovel in those situations through LakewoodAlive's shoveling program. The program needs more volunteers, so for those who are interested, please reach out to Matt Clark at [Lakewood Alive](#). I have also begun conversations with City Council on this topic to see where we can update city policy and programs to help keep sidewalks

clear.

I want to thank all our city workers who have been hard at work clearing snow recently – it is a tough job with long hours, and we appreciate the team effort to keep us safe during snow season. I especially want to thank group leader Brian Dawson, whom I spent a few hours with as he plowed his city route. Finally, I want to thank all of you who have shoveled your own sidewalks (especially the Wagar Ave. unicorn!) or pitched in to help neighbors. It shows how much people in Lakewood care for and look out for each other.

Mayor Meghan F. George

Upcoming Events & Updates

Tuesday, February 15-Virtual Town Hall: Climate Action in Lakewood

Do you have thoughts about what Lakewood should do about climate change? How it could adopt clean energy? Or what do you want your community to look like decades from now?

The City of Lakewood is pleased to invite residents to a virtual town hall from 6:00-7:00 pm on **Tuesday, February 15**. Building off the work of the Resiliency Task Force, the session will provide information on Lakewood's climate action plan, give participants a chance to ask questions and share how residents can provide input on what the goals of the plan should be, as well as what kinds of measures Lakewood should take to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Everyone is welcome.

For more information, visit <https://www.lakewoodoh.gov/climateactionplan/>.

Many programs, events, and meetings are currently postponed or virtual. Please check our calendar of events for up-to-date information.

Calendar of
Events

New Housing Planned at Bunts and Detroit



ABR Submittal
May 12, 2021

The first step in the redevelopment of the well-known Spitzer Auto Group site at Bunts and Detroit has begun as the property has transferred to the developer, Solove.

Solove will be developing a mixed-use project with 120 apartment units and approximately 1,500 square feet of commercial space.

The development will also have 12 affordable units supporting households earning less than 80% of the area median income and another 12 units supporting those earning less than 120% of the area median income (amount of income varies based on household size).

Street View
Not to Scale

Join the Cuyahoga County Solar Co-Op!

In recent years, rooftop solar has become an increasingly common and affordable way to reduce household energy costs while decreasing reliance on fossil fuels. Now, residents of Cuyahoga County have an opportunity to join the County's 2022 Solar Co-op.

The Co-op – which is offered in partnership with Solar United Neighbors (a nonprofit solar advocacy group) – enables its members to save money by negotiating below market rate group pricing. In addition to the existing 26% federal tax credit, co-op members generally save 15-20% off the cost of their system. Members receive education concerning all aspects of solar power and vendor-neutral support throughout the entire process. There is no cost or obligation. Members may quit the Co-op at any time.

Join the movement by attending a free online info session. Learn about the tax incentives, financing options, technical advances, costs, and warranties batteries and car charging ports. One hundred and forty households participated in Cuyahoga County's 2021 Co-op. Each of these households is predicted to save an estimated \$10,000 - \$25,000 over 25 years. In addition, participants have significantly reduced the amount of carbon and other pollutants that they emit into the environment. For more information, click [here](#).

Information sessions taking place:

Tuesday, February 8th at 6 pm
Thursday, February 24th at 6 pm



Foster Pool Virtual Meeting

The final draft plans for the Foster Pool reconstruction will be presented at the February 10th Architectural Board of Review virtual meeting beginning at 5:30 PM.

Comments are welcome the meeting or by emailing planning@lakewoodoh.net.

Instructions on how to access the meeting is posted [here](#).

Electric Vehicle Charging Stations

The City of Lakewood will begin collecting a charging fee of \$0.24 per kWh at all stations on March 1, 2022. This rate has been structured to only cover the cost of electricity used and to support the maintenance and upkeep of our public electric vehicle charging equipment.

To promote appropriate turnover at public stations, the



City has established a 4-hour limit for Level 2 Charging stations and a 2-hour limit for Level 3/DC Fast Charging stations.

Should users exceed the established time limit for charging at a public station, they will incur an additional idle fee of \$2.00 for each additional hour of charging beyond the time limit.

Meet Lakewood Firefighter John-Paul "JP" Terranova

JP has been with the LFD for seven years and has made a big difference by bringing the department into the 21st century. He has developed multiple programs within the department by utilizing his computer technology skills from prior employment experiences.

With the help of the City's IT Department and LFD's Mechanics Division, here are a few of the programs he has developed and installed at our fire stations:

- *Electronic Display Boards:* Display boards can be updated from any of the three fire stations, and everyone can see the information in real-time.
- *Computer Generated Dorm Lighting:* Lights will automatically illuminate low levels of blue and red lights in the dorms, depending on an EMS or Fire call.
- *One-Touch Emergency Call Back Procedure:* All members are now notified via one mass text of the immediate need for personnel, at the touch of one button on their iPads.
- *Automatic Apparatus Garage Doors Closing:* Fire now uses an App to manage closing the garage doors after leaving the firehouse on calls.
- *Emergency Location Identification and Response Guidelines:* This process automatically provides a picture and very important emergency response information about the location Fire members are responding to up on all the display boards the moment the call comes in from Dispatch.



Firefighter Terranova has saved the City of Lakewood an indescribable amount of money by developing a lot of the programs we use every day himself. These programs are available commercially with upfront setup costs and continuous subscription fees.

JP resides in Lakewood with his wife, son, and dogs. JP also participates in bodybuilding competitions and is an avid Star Wars fan.

